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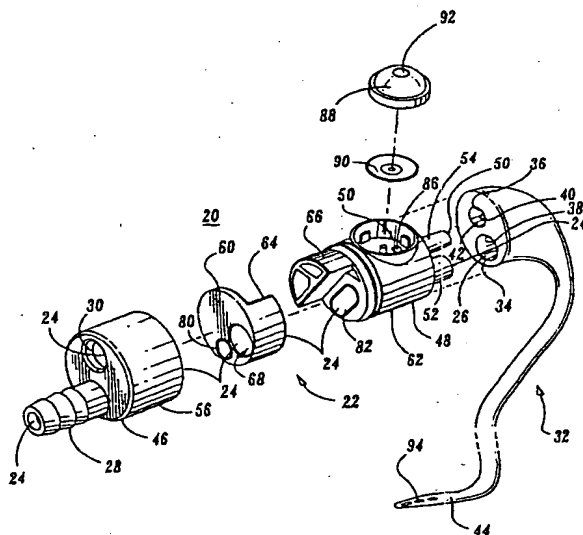
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: AUTOMATIC VALVE



(57) Abstract: A valve system (20) is provided having a housing including a first end (46), a second end (48) and a first passageway (26). The housing has a first port and a second port. A valve member (22) is disposed within the housing and movable relative thereto. The valve member (22) defines a portion of the first passageway (26) that includes a first opening configured for alignment and sealed fluid communication with the first port and the second port. The portion of the first passageway (26) further includes a second opening having a greater relative dimension than the first opening. The valve member (22) is manipulable to establish sealed fluid communication between the first opening and the first port or the second port while maintaining continuous sealed fluid communication between the second opening and the first passageway (26) adjacent to the second end (48) of the housing. The valve member (22) can be disposed within the housing for rotation relative thereto.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/US 03/34129

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61M39/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61M F16K A61J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 957 082 A (LARSON WESLEY S ET AL) 18 May 1976 (1976-05-18)	1-5, 12, 14, 19, 21, 23, 24
Y	the whole document	8, 9, 15-17, 25, 26
Y	US 6 461 335 B1 (NOECKER ANGELA M) 8 October 2002 (2002-10-08)	8, 9
A	figures 3-10 -/-	1

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 October 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

11. 11. 2004

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 03/34129

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 540 668 A (WILSON GLENDA A ET AL) 30 July 1996 (1996-07-30) column 4, line 20 - line 59 column 5, line 47 - column 6, line 17 figures 3,4b	1-4,7, 12-14, 19,21,23
Y		8,9, 15-17, 25,26
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A	----- DE 198 19 432 A (STORZ KARL GMBH & CO) 11 November 1999 (1999-11-11) figures 1-3	1,20
A	----- US 4 082 095 A (MENDELSON BARRY ET AL) 4 April 1978 (1978-04-04) figures 1-12	1,20
A	----- US 5 256 160 A (CLEMENT THOMAS P) 26 October 1993 (1993-10-26) the whole document	1,20
A	----- US 5 328 478 A (MCVAY WILLIAM P) 12 July 1994 (1994-07-12) figures 1-3	1,20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 03/34129

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-9,12-19,21,23-26

A valve housing supporting a button which has to be depressed to release the valve member to be turned.

2. claims: 10,11,20,22,27-29

A valve housing comprising a second passageway.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 03/34129

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Int. Application No

PCT/US 03/34129

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